

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 075385

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ATHENS, NICOSIA,
NATO, ADANA, ISTANBUL, IZMIR APRIL 16 , 1973 FROM ANKARA
IS REPEATED TO YOU: QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 2919

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TU

SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON TURKISH PRESIDENT

SUMMARY. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL APRIL 16, TURKISH
PRESIDENT KORUTURK SENT HIS REGARDS TO PRESIDENT NIXON,
EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT MY NEW APPOINTMENT (CONFIRMING
ALSO TURKEY' S DECISION ON OPIUM BAN), STRESSED THAT
CYPRUS SITUATION CONTINUED BEAR CAREFUL WATCHING, AND
EMPHASIZED TURKEY' S DEVOTION TO NATO, PLUS IMPORTANCE US
MILITARY ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. I PAID FAREWELL CALL ON NEW PRESIDENT KORUTURK MORNING
APRIL 16, ACCOMPANIED BY DCM SPAIN. PRESIDENT SAID HE
HAD JUST RECEIVED VERY CORDIAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON
AND THAT HE IS SENDING WARM REPLY. MEANWHILE, HE WOULD
APPRECIATE IT IF I WOULD CONVEY HIS THANKS AND REGARDS TO
PRESIDENT NIXON.

2. HE WENT ON TO CONGRATULATE ME ON MY NEW APPOINTMENT,
INDICATING THAT HE CONSIDERED IT A VERY IMPORTANT ONE, AND
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HOPING THAT I WOULD CONTINUE IN MY NEW ASSIGNMENT THE " IMPORTANT AND POSITIVE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF TURKEY" WHICH I HAD MADE DURING MY FOUR YEARS HERE. HE ADDED THAT THE BAN ON OPIUM PRODUCTION IN TURKEY TRULY REFLECTS THE FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF THE TURKISH PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT TOWARD THE US. (LIKE THE OTHER TURKISH LEADERS I HAVE SPOKEN TO IN THE PAST FEW DAYS (SEPTELS), KORUTURK SEEMED TO CONSIDER THE OPIUM PROBLEM FINISHED BUSINESS.)

3. PRESIDENT KORUTURK SAID HE HAD ONLY TWO SUBSTANTIVE POINTS HE WISHED TO MAKE TO ME: (A) THE CONFLICT BETWEEN GREEKS IN CYPRUS COULD INVOLVE THE TURKISH COMMUNITY THERE AND HAD TO BE WATCHED CAREFULLY, (B) TURKEY PLACES GREAT IMPORTANCE ON THE NATO ALLIANCE AND IS FOLLOWING EVENTS IN VIENNA AND HELSINKI VERY CLOSELY; US MILITARY AID IS OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO TURKEY-- IN PRINCIPLE AS WELL AS FACT.

4. I SAID WE WERE GRATIFIED AT RESTRAINT OF THE PRINCIPAL PARTIES ON CYPRUS QUESTION AND HOPED A SOLUTION WOULD SOON BE WORKED OUT. WE RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS OF THE TURKISH COMMUNITY THERE. REVIEWING BRIEFLY OUR CONTRIBUTION IN RECENT YEARS TO DEVELOPMENT ALL BRANCHES OF THE TURKISH MILITARY, I MENTIONED UPCOMING VISIT OF DEFENSE SECRETARY RICHARDSON AND OPPORTUNITY IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION. KORUTURK INDICATED AWARENESS SECRETARY'S VISIT AND AGREED. AT END I SKETCHED AMB MACOMBER'S CAREER, EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE OF AREA, AND PRESIDENT SAID HE MUCH LOOKING FORWARD HIS ARRIVAL.

5. PLAGUED BY POOR FOREIGN OFFICE INTERPRETER, KORUTURK OCCASIONALLY SLIPPED INTO ENGLISH HIMSELF, AND I JUDGE HE HAS ABILITY CARRY ON AT LEAST SOME CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH IF HE WISHES. (INCIDENTALLY, HE VOLUNTEERED ADMIRATION FOREIGN LANGUAGE ABILITIES AMERICAN DIPLOMATS AROUND WOULD AND COMPLIMENTED HIS VISITORS ON THEIR EFFORTS AT TURKISH.) HE STRUCK ME AS PLEASANT, MATTER OF FACT MAN, ARTICULATE AND CONCISE; HE ALREADY APPEARS VERY MUCH AT HOME IN HIS JOB. HANDLEY UNQUOTE PORTER

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